

**RECORD OF SPECIAL MEETING
ELLSWORTH CITY COUNCIL**

DATE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2017

TIME: 8:00 AM

PLACE: ELLSWORTH CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

**CITY COUNCIL PRESENT: BEATHAM, BLANCHETTE, CROSTHWAITE,
FORTIER, MOORE, AND PHILLIPS.**

CITY COUNCIL ABSENT: HUDSON

**KEY SPEAKERS PRESENT: CITY MANAGER DAVID COLE, STEVE JOYAL,
MICKI SUMPTER, AND HEIDI GRINDLE.**

Call to Order.

Chairman Phillips called the special meeting of the Ellsworth City Council to order at 8:00 AM.

Council Order #091700, Request of the Finance Director to withdraw an amount not to exceed \$35,000 from the Capital Improvement Reserve fund for the installation of an irrigation system at Knowlton Park, and to award the contract to Williams Irrigation Systems, and authorize the City Manager to sign the required agreements.

David Cole, City Manager stated quotes were solicited to perform the necessary irrigation improvements at Knowlton Park. Facilities Manager Steve Joyal was present at the meeting to answer any questions on the proposals. Williams Irrigation Systems had the lowest quote in the amount of \$27,089 to install the new system. Neither of the quotes included the cost for the borings, which is estimated to be \$3,000 from the subcontractor. There will be additional fees for the electrical and plumbing hookups. The Finance Director has requested to withdraw up to \$35,000 as this should be more than sufficient funding to cover all the associated fees for the project. See attachment #1 for the complete request as well as proposals from Williams Irrigation Systems and Coastal Irrigation and Lighting. Joyal explained Williams Irrigation Systems will warranty their labor for two years and the equipment and all fittings will be warrantied for three years. Whereas, Coastal Irrigation has a one year blanket warranty. Williams Irrigation initially stated they would perform the first year winterization at no charge; Joyal later received an email stating Williams would perform this service for the next several years at no cost. This service generally costs between \$250 and \$300 a year. Cole noted both bids met specifications; however, Williams appeared to have a better warranty. Williams total bid was approximately 10% less than the bid submitted by Coastal Irrigation. Joyal explained the water hookup will be extended from the ice rink shed; however, the borings are still necessary to reach the island areas of the Park. The electrical hookup is all ready to be extended as well. Chairman Phillips noted that the original plan for the Knowlton Park included irrigation; however, was removed during the construction phase to save money on the overall project. When the Park was originally constructed the irrigation system was projected to cost approximately \$50,000 to \$55,000. Councilor Beathem inquired what other actions are planned in addition to the irrigation system to promote healthy grass. Joyal

Call to Order.

Approved - Council Order #091700, authorize the Finance Director to withdraw an amount not to exceed \$35,000 from the Capital Improvement Reserve to fund the installation of an irrigation system at Knowlton Park, award a contract in the amount not to exceed \$27,089 to Williams Irrigation Systems for the construction of the new irrigation system, and authorize the City Manager to sign the required agreements.

**RECORD OF SPECIAL MEETING
ELLSWORTH CITY COUNCIL**

DATE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2017

TIME: 8:00 AM

PLACE: ELLSWORTH CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

**CITY COUNCIL PRESENT: BEATHAM, BLANCHETTE, CROSTHWAITE,
FORTIER, MOORE, AND PHILLIPS.**

CITY COUNCIL ABSENT: HUDSON

**KEY SPEAKERS PRESENT: CITY MANAGER DAVID COLE, STEVE JOYAL,
MICKI SUMPTER, AND HEIDI GRINDLE.**

explained as part of the landscaping contract with Goodall Landscaping they will be aerating the area annually, over seeding will be completed in early spring and a consistent fertilization schedule implemented. It was believed the above components combined with the irrigation system should produce healthy grass at the Park. Over the past two years, the Council has heard complaints from residents regarding the brown grass at this location. Beathem stated the lack of water is not the only problem at the Park. He would like to see a complete plan developed to address the entire Park and does not want the irrigation system to be the only step in that process. The irrigation system will extend throughout the entire Park including most of the side pieces that are near the streets, with the exception of the playground area. The sprinkler heads will be placed from the telephone poles back from the streets to avoid being hit by the snowplows; however, arranged to spray from that point in toward the Park. Depending on the weather conditions for any given year the water usage is expected to be approximately 13,200 gallons per day according to Coastal Irrigation. The system will have an automatic check to calculate in any natural rain before signaling the system to be activated on that particular day. Joyal explained based on the size of the Park the system would water ½ of the park one night and the remainder the next night. The following two days the irrigation system would not be used; this schedule would be dependent on the weather.

On a motion by Moore, seconded by Fortier, it was

RESOLVED to approve Council Order #091700, authorize the Finance Director to withdraw an amount not to exceed \$35,000 from the Capital Improvement Reserve to fund the installation of an irrigation system at Knowlton Park, award a contract in the amount not to exceed \$27,089 to Williams Irrigation Systems for the construction of the new irrigation system, and authorize the City Manager to sign the required agreements.

Before a vote was taken Beathem explained he is not very happy with this direction for the Park; however, since the money is already designated for the Park and the funds are available he will support the motion. Beathem noted there needs to be more done than just the irrigation system at the Park; he stated a lot of money was spent creating the Park and now it needs to be taken care of properly. Phillips shared some of the comments that were made during a meeting earlier in the week on the topic of creating a Recreation Department. Joyal noted in the interim of creating a Recreational Department, the City has hired Goodall Landscaping for the care of the Park. This is a reputable company and they have been doing a very good

**RECORD OF SPECIAL MEETING
ELLSWORTH CITY COUNCIL**

DATE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2017

TIME: 8:00 AM

PLACE: ELLSWORTH CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

**CITY COUNCIL PRESENT: BEATHAM, BLANCHETTE, CROSTHWAITE,
FORTIER, MOORE, AND PHILLIPS.**

CITY COUNCIL ABSENT: HUDSON

**KEY SPEAKERS PRESENT: CITY MANAGER DAVID COLE, STEVE JOYAL,
MICKI SUMPTER, AND HEIDI GRINDLE.**

job at the Park this season. Joyal feels strongly that the addition of an irrigation system will make a huge difference with the appearance of the Park which in turn will encourage Goodall to perform an even better job, once there is grass to mow. Joyal has seen their lawn work and it is impressive. The fertilization schedule and soil samples they take contribute to their success rate. He feels minus a director for the Park, the City is headed in the right direction to improve the health of the Park. Joyal will continue to work closely with Goodall Landscaping and monitor the condition of the Park. After much research Councilor Blanchette was in support of installing the irrigation system and performing maintenance on City owned properties. Councilor Fortier was initially concerned with every decision on this topic being lumped into one motion. He would have been preferred to authorize the removal of money from the Capital Improvement Account and then had an open discussion. By placing all three directives within one motion it was not as transparent as it should have been. Based on this concern Fortier requested and received amended agenda wording so that it truly reflected the intent of the Council. Fortier agreed the Park really needs to be watered and more needs to be done to take care of the Park.

Stephen Shea, Ellsworth resident commented on the amount of notice provided for the Special Council meeting. Shea believed the letter of the law was met; however, in his opinion the intent of the law was not. The Council was first made aware of the potential need for an irrigation system last year when the grass turned brown and many citizen complaints were received. The first set of proposals on a possible solution were received last year. Shea was concerned with this expenditure being heard at a Special meeting and not the Regular Monthly meeting two weeks ago. Phillips stated not all the details were finalized as well as other avenues were still being explored at the time of the Regular Council meeting. At this time the Council is trying to have the system installed prior to winter. Shea inquired if the Council had explored alternative ways of maintaining the Parks. There was a lengthy discussion on the condition of the turf at the Park. Cole noted the urgency for having a Special Council meeting was centered around the plan for over seeding the Park this fall and the success of that plan being dependent on an irrigation system.

Alison King, new Ellsworth taxpayer inquired if there had been any effort in creating a friends of the park type of group. She felt this group could possibly hold fundraising activities to help offset the expense to the Ellsworth taxpayers for maintaining the Park. Micki Sumpter, Economic Development Director stated there is now a group under the guidance of Helen Dudman working on this initiative. Donations are still being received for the maintenance of the Park and activities are

**RECORD OF SPECIAL MEETING
ELLSWORTH CITY COUNCIL**

DATE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2017

TIME: 8:00 AM

PLACE: ELLSWORTH CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

**CITY COUNCIL PRESENT: BEATHEM, BLANCHETTE, CROSTHWAITE,
FORTIER, MOORE, AND PHILLIPS.**

CITY COUNCIL ABSENT: HUDSON

**KEY SPEAKERS PRESENT: CITY MANAGER DAVID COLE, STEVE JOYAL,
MICKI SUMPTER, AND HEIDI GRINDLE.**

being planned to help raise additional funds for this purpose.

A vote was taken on the above motion with all members voting unanimously in favor.

Adjournment.

On a motion by Fortier, seconded by Crosthwaite, it was unanimously

RESOLVED to approve adjournment at 8:24 AM.

A TRUE COPY

**ATTEST: _____
HEIDI-NOËL GRINDLE**

**Approved -
Adjournment at 8:24
AM.**